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International Court of Justice

OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

EVIDENCE DIVISION

Date : 19 July 1948

I certify that Document Number 3311-PS was introduced into evidence as Exhibit Number USA-293 in the Trial by the International Tribunal of Hermann GOERING, et al, which commenced on 20 November 1945, and that the attached photostat is a true and correct copy of the original.

Fred Niebergall

Fred NIEBERGALL
Chief, Document
Control Branch.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the annexed document 3311-PS No. USA-293 is a photostat of an original document submitted in evidence by the United States Prosecution under this number. The original document has been withdrawn in accordance with Rule 10 of the International Military Tribunal, and to the best of my knowledge and belief is to be held at the National Archives, Washington D.C.

Nuremberg, 28 June 1948

Paul Joosten

PAUL A. JOOSTEN

General Secretary
International Military
Tribunal

3311-PS

H2837-0004

C e r t i f i c a t e.

This will certify that the document entitled "Charge No 6, Camp of Treblinka,", concerning the extermination of Jews in this camp, is hereby officially submitted by the Polish Government to the International Military Tribunal by the undersigned under the provisions set forth in Article 21 of the Charter.

T. Cyprian

Dr. Tadeusz Cyprian
Polish Deputy Representative
on the United Nations War
Crimes Commission in London

Nurnberg, the 5th December, 1945

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
NURNBERG, GERMANY
USA Exhibit 293
Filed Dec 14, 1945

3311-PS

Treblinka

CHARGE No. 6.

In accordance with article 6 of the Charter the Polish Government indicts

Dr. Hans FRANK,

Governor General of Poland,

of the following crime:

The German authorities acting under the authority of Governor General Dr. Hans Frank established in March 1942 the extermination-camp at Treblinka, intended for mass killing of Jews by suffocating them in steam-filled chambers.

Particulars of the alleged Crime

In 1940 the German authorities established in the village of Treblinka, near Malkinia close to the railway-line Warsaw - Bialystok, a concentration camp for Poles who refused to deliver contingents of agricultural products ordered by the German administrative authorities. In November 1941, the District Governor of Warsaw, Dr. FISCHER, proclaimed this camp as a general concentration camp for the whole district of Warsaw and ordered all Poles to be deported there who some way or other contravened against the orders or prohibitions of the German authorities. Later on this camp was named "Treblinka A".

In March 1942, the Germans began to erect another camp "Treblinka B" /in the neighbourhood of "Treblinka A"/, intended to become a place of torment for Jews.

The erection of this camp was closely connected with the German plans aiming at a complete destruction of the Jewish population in Poland which necessitated the creation of a machinery by means of which the Polish Jews could be killed in large numbers. Late in April 1942, the erection of the first three chambers was finished in which these general massacres were to be performed by means of steam. Somewhat later the erection of the real "death-building" was finished which contains ten death chambers. It was opened for wholesale murders early in autumn 1942.

It may be mentioned here that there were several phases in the development of the persecution of the Jews in Poland. During the first period /till October 1940/ the Germans were aiming only at the moral degredation and complete pauperisation of the Jews by all kinds of restrictions of their rights, by the confiscation of their property etc., but later on they turned to their gradual annihilation and destruction as a nation. This change of policy is apparent in their treatment of the ghettos, first they had only to isolate the Jews from the Aryans but later on they were /the ghettos/ the very means of the physical annihilation of the Jews.

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Healthier and stronger Jews were deported for forced labour while those who remained in the Ghettos were decimated by starvation and epidemics. As these methods did not produce the desired results more drastic measures were adopted. Wholesale massacres were organised in the Ghettos and, finally, a complete annihilation of the ghettos was decided upon.

The Jews had simply cease to exist. Special camps were established for this purpose where the destruction of human lives was carried on by mechanized means. The best known of these death camps are those of Treblinka, Belzec and Sobibor /in the Lublin district/. In these camps the Jews were put to death in their thousands by hitherto unknown, new methods, gas and steam chambers as well as electric current employed on a large scale. The victims were recruited chiefly from the General Government, and particularly from the following districts: Warsaw, Radom, Lublin, Kraków and Lwów, but Jews from outside the General Government were also sent there, particularly from the Białystok district where the Ghettos were maintained for a long time and where in the summer months of 1943 about 10.000 Jews were rounded up and transported to Treblinka for extermination.

The main part of the "work" was done in summer and autumn 1942. Winter 1942 and the year 1943 were used for "mopping up operations", i.e. for the extermination of those who managed to dodge the main round-up and, of those younger Jews who were employed in war industry. To indulge in their lust for destruction the Germans did not hesitate to put to death even those younger Jews although their man-power was badly needed and their loss - as admitted by the Germans themselves - was a serious handicap for the war effort.

The Camp B of Treblinka is situated in hilly, wooded country. It covered an area of about 5.000 ha /8 sq.miles/ and was fenced off by hedges and barbed wire. It is bordered in the north by a young forest, in the west by a railway-embankment while low hills shut it off from the East and South. There are several observation posts in the camp for the camp guard /Lagerschutz/ aswell as searchlights used for securing the camp during the hours of darkness. A side track leads from the main railway track on to a loading platform adjoining a large open place fenced off by barbed wire, where several thousands persons can be accomodated at the same time. To the north stands a large barrack and in the south-western corner an observation post. The place to the south of the barbed f wire fence was used for sorting out pieces of clothes of the victims which were fit for further use /Lumpensortierungsplatz/. Further to the south is the place of execution and a mass grave. A gate opens from the place to a road leading to the buildings and of one of them is divided by a narrow corridor into two parts and measures approx. 40 yards by 25 yards. On each side of the corridor are situated five chambers whose height is about 6 and a half feet. There are no windows. The doors can be shut hermetically.

The second building consists of three chambers and a boiler-room. The steam generated in the boilers is led by means of pipes to the chambers. There are terracota floors in the chambers which become very slippery when wet. Along the southern wall of the building runs a long platform where the bodies of the victims were piled up after execution. A well is situated near the boiler-room.

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Behind this building and separated from the rest of the camp by barbed wire stands a barrack and a kitchen destined for the grave diggers. On both sides of these buildings are situated observation posts. As the executions grew in numbers, mass graves were dug out by motor driven machines and not by hand and shovel as in the beginning.

The camp was guarded by Germans of the SS-detachments and by Ukrainians. The officer to whom this guard was subordinated was the SS-Capt. SAUER. This garrison /Lagerschutz/ performed also duties of executioners, while menial services had to be performed by the inmates of the camps themselves, so e.g. the unloading of the trucks, stripping of the victims and sorting out of their clothes and shoes /Lumpensortierung/, the emptying of the death chambers and the burying of the bodies. When a new transport arrived some of the Jews were picked out to do this work so long till they broke down morally under the impression of this organized and mechanized mass murder. Then they had to dig their own graves and take up their position at them, whereupon they were shot one by one by SAUER personally. Their last duty before dying was to push the body of the preceding victim into its own grave. A new party was then chosen to continue their work in the camp. The sadism of SAUER in enjoying the shooting personally sounds incredible, but his guilt has been established beyond any doubt.

The average number of Jews dealt with at the camp in summer 1942 was about two railway transports daily, but there were days of much higher efficiency. From autumn 1942 this number was falling.

After unloading in the siding all victims were assembled in one place where men were separated from women and children. In the first days of the existence of the camp the victims were made to believe that after a short stay in the camp, necessary for bathing and desinfection, they would be sent farther east, for work. Explanations of this sort were given by SSMen who assisted at the unloading of the transports and further explanations could be read in notices stuck up on the walls of the barracks. But later, when more transports had to be dealt with, the Germans dropped all pretences and only tried to accelerate the procedure.

All victims had to strip off their clothes and shoes, which were collected afterwards, whereupon all victims, women and children first, were driven into the death chambers. Those too slow or too weak to move quickly were driven on by rifle butts, by whipping and kicking, often by SAUER himself. Many slipped and fell, the next victims pressed forward and stumbled over them. Small children were simply thrown inside. After being filled up to capacity the chambers were hermetically closed and steam was let in. In a few minutes all was over. The Jewish menial workers had to remove the bodies from the platform and to bury them in mass graves. By and by, as new transports arrived, the cemetery grew extending in eastern direction.

From reports received may be assumed that several hundred thousands of Jews have been exterminated in Treblinka. Exact figures are impossible to obtain as the Germans did not bother to keep any records concerning the number of Jews deported to this camp and killed there. It will be even impossible to establish some correct figures because as early as spring 1943 the Germans began to exhumate the bodies and to burn them so as to

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destroy all evidence of the crimes perpetrated. These exhumations continued until summer 1943, when the victims were able to start a mutiny and to kill some of the guards enabling thus several hundred Jews to escape from the camp.

The above description of the mass murders in Treblinka give only a faint idea of the horrors which prevailed in the camp. It is practically impossible to imagine the sufferings of the victims in the camp and to grasp the full extent of the atrocities. For the victims transported to the camp in cattle trucks and exposed for several days to the most cruel sufferings of body and soul, death in the steam chambers must have almost come as a welcome relief. Their only crime consisted in the fact of belonging to a race condemned by Hitler to death.

The responsability of Dr. Hans FRANK for the setting up of the camp at Treblinka and for the mass killings described above is inherent to his official position as Governor General of Poland.

The camp could not be set up without either his direct order or, at least, his approval, and the numbers of people killed there clearly indicate, that these atrocities were elements of a systematic policy of extermination. All those connected with the "liquidation" of ghettos and of the Jews themselves took up their orders from the Governor General.

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PARTIAL TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT 3311-PS
OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL

Beschuldigung No. 6

Siegel der
Obersten Kommission
fuer die Untersuchung
deutscher Verbrechen in Polen.

Gemaess Artikel 6 des Statutes erhebt die polnische Regierung Anklage gegen Dr. Hans Frank, General Gouverneur von Polen, wegen folgendes Verbrechens:

Die deutschen Behoerden, die unter den Befehl des General Gouverneur Dr. Hans Frank handelten, hatten ein Vernichtungslager in Treblinka im Jahre 1942 errichtet, zu den Zwecke der Massenabschlachtung von Juden, die man in Dampf gefuellten Kammern ersticken wollte.

Einzelheiten ueber das zur Last gelegte Verbrechen.

Im Jahre 1940 hatten die deutschen Behoerden in den Dorf Treblinka, bei Malkinia nahe der Bahnlinie von Warschau nach Bialystock, ein Konzentrationslager fuer die Polen errichtet, die sich der Verordnung der deutschen Verwaltungsbehoerden, landwirtschaftliche Erzeugnisse abzugeben, widersetzten. Im November 1941 erklaerte der Bezirks-Gouverneur von Warschau, Dr. Fischer, dieses Lager als allgemeines Konzentrations-Lager fuer den ganzen Bezirk Warschau, und gab den Befehl, dass alle Polen dorthin verschickt werden sollten, die irgendwie den Befehlen oder den Verboten der deutschen Behoerden zuwiderhandelten. Spaeterhin wurde dieses Lager "Treblinka A" genannt.

Im Maerz 1942 begannen die Deutschen ein anderes Lager, "Treblinka B" in der Nachbarschaft von "Treblinka A" zu errichten, welches als ein Marterplatz fuer Juden bestimmt wurde.

Die Errichtung dieses Lagers stand in engen Zusammenhang mit den deutschen Plaenen, die darauf hinzielten, die juedische Bevoelkerung in Polen voellig auszurotten; dies wiederum machte die Errichtung einer Maschinerie notwendig, durch welche polnische Juden in Scharen getoetet werden konnten. Gegen Ende April 1942 waren die ersten drei Kammern fertiggestellt, in denen die allgemeinen Massenmorde durch Dampf vollzogen werden sollten. Etwas spaeter wurde das wirkliche "Toten-Haus" fertiggestellt, welches 10 Todeskammern enthaelt. Es wurde im Herbst 1942 fuer Massenmorde eroeffnet.

Der Unterzeichnete bestaetigt, dass er mit der deutschen und englischen Sprache vollkommen vertraut ist, und dass das vorstehende Schriftstueck eine genaue und wahrheitsgetreue Uebersetzung des Dokuments Nr. 3311-PS Partial ist.

ERNEST HUEBLINGER
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PARTIAL TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT 3311-PS
OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL

Bescheinigung.

Es wird bescheinigt, dass das Dokument betitelt: "Anlage No. 6, Lager von Treblinka" welches die Ausrottung von Juden in diesem Lager behandelt, hiermit amtlich von der polnischen Regierung dem Internationalen Militaer-Gericht, von dem Unterzeichneten unter Berucksichtigung des Artikels 21 des Statutes vorgelegt worden ist.

gez. Dr. Cyprian.

Dr. Tadeusz Cyprian
Polnischer Abgeordneter
in der Kriegs-Schuld-Kommission
der Vereinten Nationen in London.

Stempel der Obersten
Kommission fuer die
Untersuchung von Verbrechen
verubt von Deutschen in Polen

Nurnberg, 5. Dez. 1945

COPY OF DOCUMENT NO. 3311-PS
OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL

C H A R G E No. 6.

(SEAL OF MAIN COMMISSION
FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF
GERMAN CRIMES IN POLAND)

In accordance with article 6 of the Charter the Polish Government indicts

Dr. Hans F R A N K

Governor General of Poland,

of the following crime:

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The erection of this camp was closely connected with the German plans aiming at a complete destruction of the Jewish population in Poland which necessitated the creation of a machinery by means of which the Polish Jews could be killed in large numbers. Late in April 1942, the erection of the first three chambers was finished in which these general massacres were to be performed by means of steam. Somewhat later the erection of the real "death-building" was finished which contains ten death chambers. It was opened for wholesale murders early in autumn 1942.

It may be mentioned here that there were several phases in the development of the persecution of the Jews in Poland. During the first period /till October 1940/ the Germans were aiming only at the moral degradation and complete pauperisation of the Jews by all kinds of restrictions of their rights, by the confiscation of their property etc., but later on they turned to their gradual annihilation and destruction as a nation. This change of policy is apparent in their treatment of the ghettos, first they had only to isolate the Jews from the Aryans but later on they were /the ghettos/ the very means of the physical annihilation of the Jews.

Healthier and stronger Jews were deported for forced labor while those who remained in the Ghettos were decimated by starvation and epidemics. As these methods did not produce the desired results more drastic measures were adopted. Wholesale massacres were organized in the Ghettos and, finally, a complete annihilation of the ghettos was decided upon .

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The Jews had simply ceased to exist. Special camps were established for this purpose where the destruction of human lives was carried on by mechanized means. The best known of these death camps are those of Treblinka, Belzec and Sobiber /in the Lublin district/. In these camps the Jews were put to death in their thousands by hitherto unknown, new methods, gas and steam chambers as well as electric current employed on a large scale. The victims were recruited chiefly from the General Government, and particularly from the following districts: Warsaw, Radom, Lublin, Krakow and Lwow, but Jews from outside the General Government were also sent there, particularly from the Bialystok district where the Ghettos were maintained for a long time and where in the summer months of 1943 about 10,000 Jews were rounded up and transported to Treblinka for extermination.

The main part of the "work" was done in summer and autumn 1942. Winter 1942 and the year 1943 were used for "mopping up operations", i.e. for the extermination of those who managed to dodge the main round-up and, of those younger Jews who were employed in war industry. To indulge in their lust for destruction the Germans did not hesitate to put to death even those younger Jews although their man-power was badly needed and their loss - as admitted by the Germans themselves - was a serious handicap for the war effort.

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The camp was guarded by Germans of the SS-detachments and by Ukrainians. The officer to whom this guard was subordinated was the SS-Capt. SAUER. This garrison /Lagerschutz/ performed also duties of executioners, while menial services had to be performed by the inmates of the camps themselves, so e.g. the unloading of the trucks, stripping of the victims and sorting out of their clothes and shoes /Lumpensortierung/ the emptying of the death chambers and the burying of the bodies. When a new transport arrived some of the Jews were picked out to do this work so long till they broke down morally under the impression of this organized and mechanized mass murder. Then they had to dig their own graves and take up their position at them, whereupon they were shot one by one by SAUER personally. Their last duty before dying was to push the body of

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the preceding victim into its own grave. A new party was then chosen to continue their work in the camp. The sadism of SAUER in enjoying the shooting personally sounds incredible, but his guilt has been established beyond any doubt.

The average number of Jews dealt with at the camp in summer 1942 was about two railway transports daily, but there were days of much higher efficiency. From autumn 1942 this number was falling.

After unloading in the siding all victims were assembled in one place where men were separated from women and children. In the first days of the existence of the camp the victims were made to believe that after a short stay in the camp, necessary for bathing and disinfection, they would be sent farther east, for work. Explanations of this sort were given by SS Men who assisted at the unloading of the transports and further explanations could be read in notices stuck up on the walls of the barracks. But later, when more transports had to be dealt with, the Germans dropped all pretences and only tried to accelerate the procedure.

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(SEAL OF MAIN COMMISSION
FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF
GERMAN CRIMES IN POLAND)

H2837 - 0013

COPY OF DOCUMENT NO. 3311-PS
OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL

Certificate.

This will certify that the document entitled "Charge No 6, Camp of Treblinka,", concerning the extermination of Jews in this camp, is hereby officially submitted by the Polish Government to the International Military Tribunal by the undersigned under the provisions set forth in Article 21 of the Charter.

/S/ Dr. Cyprian

Dr. Tadeusz Cyprian
Polish Deputy Representative
on the United Nations War
Crimes Commission in London

(SEAL OF MAIN COMMISSION
FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF
GERMAN CRIMES IN POLAND)

Nurnberg, the 5th December, 1945

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INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIALS · NÜRNBERG ·

EXHIBIT U.S.A.

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EXHIBIT U.S.A. 293 (3311-PS.)

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